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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: November 27, 1957

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: Political Conditions in Guatemala and Presidential
Candidacy of Colonel Jose Luis Cruz-Salazar

PARTICIPANTS: Colonel Jose Luis Cruz-Salazar, Ambassador of Guatemala
MID - Mr. Bayard Rustin, Guatemala Desk Officer
Mr. Kennedy M. Crockett, Officer in Charge, Mexican Affairs

COPIES TO: ARA, IEC (2), MID - Mr. Crockett, Ambassador Guatemala

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Funkhouser OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-B-201

Mr. King took Mr. Crockett, who is shortly to depart for assignment at the Embassy in Guatemala, to call upon the Guatemalan Ambassador. The meeting developed into a discussion of political problems in Guatemala and lasted for more than two hours.

The essence of the Guatemalan Ambassador's observations regarding his own candidacy was that he was now much less optimistic than before. He said that certain forces were at work in Guatemala to split the anti-Communist coalition consisting of the MDN, DCG and splinter parties. He said the coalition's chief problem was lack of funds. He said that a certain Giordani, who appeared to be well supplied with money and who was an agent of the PR, was conducting an apparently successful maneuver to woo the DCG away from the MDN. The Ambassador stressed that this could only hurt the anti-Communist cause.

The Ambassador said that he had requested permission from the Guatemalan Foreign Minister to return immediately to Guatemala. He said that if permission were not granted he would resign as Ambassador and go anyway. The Ambassador said that speaking unofficially he was convinced that the United States must take a hand in the present Guatemalan situation. He stressed that he was not asking for United States support for his own candidacy, but that he felt the United States had a responsibility not to let Guatemala fall back into chaos and possibly Communism.

Mr. King emphasized again to Ambassador Cruz the Department's great and continuing interest in political developments in Guatemala, and its strong opposition to the emergence of any new government there with the slightest Communist taint.

ARA:MID:BKing:mpb

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